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12 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

1. I do not concur with Col. Grogan's suggestion for a background press conference. I think it would be particularly inappropriate to do this just before your confirmation hearings. It would inevitably become known on Capitol Hill that you had done so and might well be construed by unfriendly senators and congressmen as "protesting too much". I also believe that members of the Press Corps might well interpret it in this manner.

2. Further, these matters have been so thoroughly reviewed by various Congressional committees at various times that I feel there is no point in saying anything more, particularly to the press, except perhaps in answer to specific questions which Col. Grogan can handle by referring the newsmen to the appropriate portions of the hearings.

3. I, therefore, most strongly recommend against any background newsconference and would point out that you might set a precedent for future news conferences on other subjects relating to intelligence.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick